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Ex-student leaders want BUET politics ban review

Ahammad Foyez | Published at 12:57am on October 13, 2019

Former student leaders, now national-level political leaders, called for reconsideration of the ban on student politics at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

They said that the BUET authority should allow student organisations without party affiliation to carry out political activities in order to ensure rights of the students.

They viewed that the ban on student politics would boomerang for the university's students as different extremist groups would try to be active there in absence of student political organisations.

The BUET authority banned political activities by any political organisation on the campus from Saturday amid vociferous protests by the university's students seeking, among others, ban on political activities at the institution.

The agitation followed the murder of Abrar Fahad, a second-year student of the university, at his dormitory reportedly by leaders and activists of the BUET unit of the ruling Awami League-backed student organisation Bangladesh Chhatra League.

The protesters, however, had demanded a ban on the politics of party-affiliated student bodies on the campus.

They also said that Abrar was killed in his dormitory as an environment of bad politics was created on the campus due to a long absence of proper student politics there.

They said that the Bangladesh Chhatra League had created a reign of terror on the campus as no other student organisation could enter the campus after the Awami League formed government in 2009.

Communist Party of Bangladesh president and former DUCS U VP Mujahidul Islam Selim told New Age that the BUET authority should allow the progressive student bodies on the campus.

Student politics inspires patriotism in students, which also later helps them to be involved in democratic activities of the country, the former student leader said.

He observed that such ban on student politics will help those conspirators who were active for de-politicisation.

He went on to point out that no other student organisation than the BCL was active at the BUET as the pro-government student body created obstacles for other student bodies to run their activities on the campus.

Nagarik Oikya convener and another former DUCSU VP Mahmudur Rahman Manna said that banning of student politics on the BUET campus following the killing of Abrar was not justified.

He viewed that Abrar was a victim of bad politics and such incidents could not have happened if student politics existed on the campus.

Student politics is being victimised for the offences of the Bangladesh Chhatra League, he resented.

He repeated his demand for an announcement declaring the BCL as an anti-student organisation.

Jatiya Party presidium member and former DUCSU general secretary Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu said that the BUET authorities should rescind their decision of banning student politics on the campus and hold elections to its central students union.

He further said that student union elections were needed for every university and college of the country in order to free student politics from party affiliation.

Education minister Dipu Moni on Saturday, while addressing a programme in Chandpur, said that though banning or allowing student politics on a university campus was the sole jurisdiction of the university authorities, blaming student politics for everything was not fair.

She commented that power was misused at the BUET by some students in the name of student politics.

Addressing a programme in Gazipur, agriculture minister Mohammad Abdur Razzaque said that there was no ground for banning student politics as politics was a basic right of people.

He said that student politics existed in almost all countries of the world.

At a programme in the capital, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal president Hasanul Haq Inu said that they were against banning student politics in the educational institutions and hoped that the BUET authority would withdraw the ban as early as possible.



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